

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 05099 130533Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4005

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5099

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: MACAPAGAL: AN OPPOSITION EVALUATION

REF: MANILA 5060

1. SENATOR GERARDO ROXAS, TITULAR HEAD OF LIBERAL PARTY, VOLUNTEERED APRIL 12 TO CHARGE HIS OPINION THAT FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL IN THE LONG RUN WILL HAVE GAINED MORE CREDIBILITY AMONG PHILIPPINE OPPONENTS OF MARTIAL LAW THAN HE LOST BY REQUESTING ASYLUM FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. IN THE SHORT RUN, ROXAS ACKNOWLEDGED, OPINIONS ARE MIXED, WITH MANY PERSONS BELIEVING THAT MACAPAGAL LOST PRESTIGE, NOT BECAUSE HE ASKED FOR ASYLUM BUT BECAUSE HE WAS REFUSED IT. THIS PARADOX, HE EXPLAINED, IS BASED ON THE WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES REFUSED MACAPAGAL BECAUSE OF THE DIRECT INTERVENTION OF PRESIDENT MARCOS, THEREBY ESTABLISHING WHO IS THE BIGGER MAN IN AMERICAN EYES AT LEAST.

2. ROXAS MADE CLEAR THAT IN HIS OWN VIEW, MACAPAGAL BY THE BID FOR ASYLUM HAS, OR WILL COME TO HAVE, ENHANCED HIS OPPOSITION POSITION, PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIS PUBLISHED STATEMENT OF DISSENT, DEMOCRACY IN THE PHILIPPINES, BUT ALSO BECAUSE HIS DRAMATIC, ABORTIVE BID WILL SERVE TO

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OVERCOME A RESIDUAL RESENTMENT AMONG THE OPPOSITION CON-

CERNING MACAPAGAL'S PERFORMANCE DURING THE CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION.

3. ROXAS ADDED THAT HE HAD SEEN MACAPAGAL THAT MORNING ON
THE GOLF COURSE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: izenbei0
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